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WASHRAG



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 01
JANUARY 2019

Wireless Association of South Hills

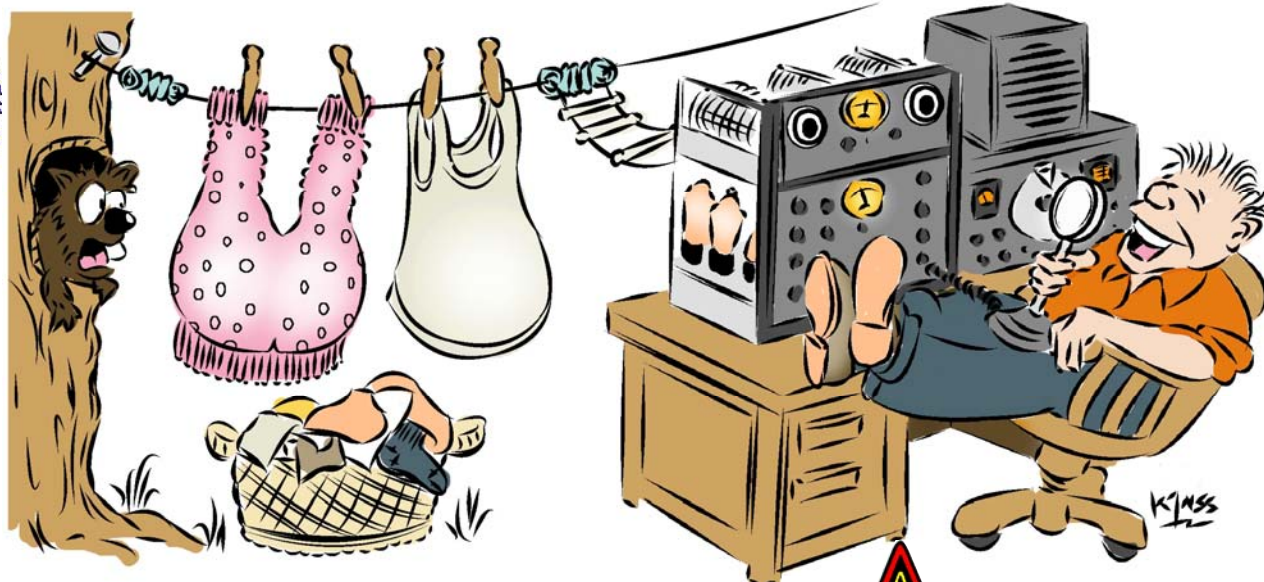


N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 Issue 01

JANUARY 2019

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 3rd, 2019

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, January 3rd 2019**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Subjects for the meeting include the **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest, **WASHfest 2019**, and other upcoming plans for 2019. See you there!

Cover Photos: Top: W3WH & K3VX operating VP9I; WO3Z, W3WH, K3VX and VP9GE with a view of the bay.

Cover Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2018 Gary Weslager K3GW

WASH 2019 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Asst. Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHfest 2019 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 24th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 24th, 2019, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2019**, South Park Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn@n3sh.org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
 Pen / Pencil / Calculator
 Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
 Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
 Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: **To Be Scheduled**

Tony's Musings

Happy New Year!! I'm sure 2019 will be a great year With a lot of activity, starting with the Nineteenth Annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** on January 12th, then the Twenty Fourth Annual **WASHfest** on Sunday, February 24th.

I'd like to thank All the members of WASH for such a great 2018! and especially recognize Glen KE7FD our outgoing President, and Harold K3HCR our outgoing Vice President/Secretary, Mark N3RDV VP/Treasurer, Ron W3WN for the best newsletter of any ARC, Chuck KC3ELA for the **WASHnet** & 2M contest, Carol KB3GMN for ways & Means, Sean N3NWR webmaster these past few years, and Curtis KB3CMT for accepting the position of webmaster.

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
 N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b



On December 7th, 2018, a Post Office in Gainesville, FL was evacuated, and the bomb squad was called, when a large package with "pipes and wires coming from it" was discovered by postal employees. Police eventually determined that the box contained "ham radio parts" So, if you know of a ham in Florida who never received his antenna...

The weekend between Christmas and New Year's can often be quiet, often be hectic. So it was with a little bit of trepidation that the **WASH Breakfast Gang** got together, on December 29th at **Eat'nN Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray, but fortunately, the crowd slept in a little big, and really began to arrive as we were leaving! This month's group included WB4GCS with his guest ex-N3DUO, N3FB, KB3GMU, W3WH, K3HCR, KB3CMT, N3DFK and W3WN. Morning conversations covered the antennas at St. Clair Hospital, searching for the microphone, remote stations, moving transmitters, "what on Earth is a Thermos bottle?" and other things disappearing from daily usage, Sears and K-Mart closing, Craftsman tools at Lowes, commercialized remote radio sites, the Raspberry Pi & Linux tailored for Amateur Radio, thinking of retiring, buying an ex-police car, diesel VW's, new cars and keyfobs, the end of Saturns, Read The Factory Manual, Amazon HQ2 choices, transit systems, \$45/day to park at a DC area hotel, Border Security, "remember when Saturday Night Live was funny?", legalizing recreational pot whether it's a good idea or not, splitting California into three states, powder coating frames & electrolysis, expecting 10 feet of snow after installing the snow plow, talking to hams in Dallas on a 10 meter repeater, sunspot peaks, and Vinnie's may have closed... and a whole lot more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, January 27th, returning to the **Eat'nN Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray (the "new" restaurant that was recently built), officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

The annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** will be coming up again in a few short days. Can you believe this is the 19th running? Complete rules are in this month's issue... yes, the typo on the mailing address has been fixed!... and the complete "packet" will be available on the club website shortly. For a short little event, only 4 hours tops, it's a lot of fun. Hope to work you!

WASHFest 2019 is about 2 months away. Plenty of time, right? Nope! Carol KB3GMN is already hard at work. The main prizes have been picked, as have the Black Box and door prizes as well. Vendor tables are starting to sell, slowly but this will pick up, especially this month and into the beginning of next month. Well, you get the idea.

Don't forget to mark the days on your calendar... and start thinking about what you can do to give Carol and the 'fest Committee a hand, before and during the event. This is a fun event, but it takes a lot of work and planning — you just can't do it on auto pilot. And it IS our main fund-raiser for the year, which pays for our events and operating activities as well. There will be more on **WASHFest 2019** in the coming months... at meetings, on the email reflector, and in this newsletter.

We noted that last issue concludes 20 complete years of the **WASHRag**. You know what we never noticed at all last year? 2018 marked the 25th Anniversary of the founding of **WASH**!

Congratulations to Curtis KB3CMT, who has **agreed to sign on as our Assistant Webmaster**, giving Sean N3NWR a hand. He's been looking at the code behind the scenes... we probably have some stuff buried in there that goes back to Bob Sanford AA3FI and the original club web pages!... Cleaning up a few things and making some updates.

It's a new year and a new President, but there's one small last order of business for outgoing President Glen KE7FD to take care of... **who will be awarded the Kilowatt Award for 2018?** The Kilowatt Award is given each year to the member or members of the club who have demonstrated an outstanding measure of service or support to the club in the previous calendar year, in the view of the Club President for that year. We don't know who Glen has in mind, so we hope to be pleasantly surprised!

As noted above, it is with some sadness that we hear the report that **Vinnie's in Canonsburg may have closed up**. Of course, most of us remember the location as **Suzie B's**, where we met for many years for the monthly club breakfast, and other club members were regulars every week or even every few days. Things were very nice there for so long, but sad to say, nothing lasts forever.

Finally, we're shoe-horning in here an "extra" photo from the **VP9I trip** that several club members made last month. **Full story on Page 7!**



Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 15

Minutes, December 6th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Glen KE7FD called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. There were 17 members and 1 guest (Grant Olson KC3MLC) present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence was observed for recent Silent Keys & others deserving, and then introductions.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Bill W3WH, second by Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV)

Read. Motion to Accept: Tony (KB3BYA)

Seconded by: Bill (W3WH)

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU)

Motion to Waive Reading of the Minutes: Yes

by: Carol (KB3GMN)

Seconded by: Bobby (N3RDG)

Passed: Y N Unanimously

Correspondence: None

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Next test @ **WASHFest** on February 24th, 2019

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB), Still working? Yes Issues?: No

WASHNet: Charles Bihun, III (K3CELA): "Good conversations"

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX) **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest – January 12, 2018

Public Service: Bob Timmins (AB3ED): No report

WASHFest 2019: Carol Danko (KB3GMN): Two tables reserved; prizes: ICOM 7300, Comet CAA500MkII Antenna, Buddipole. Cost \$1,500; cost includes "black box" prizes.

Membership Contributions: (KB3GMN): Gratefully being accepted.

Newsletter: (W3WN): Published! Thankyou contributors!

Ways & Means: Carol Danko (KB3GMN): (See WASHFest)

President's Report: "It was a pleasure to serve as president of WASH the last two years. Members a joy to work with."

Old Business: Status on generators purchase discussion: Jim (WB4GLS) will test after the holidays.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: By: Jim (WB4GLS)

Seconded by: Carol (KB3GMN):)

Meeting Adjourned: 19:20 hours

PRESENTATIONS (IF ANY): Bill (W3WH) & Larry (K3VX) DX in Bermuda; good results, nice accommodations; somewhat expensive.

Submitted by: Dan Campbell; Date: December 7, 2018



WASH Spotlight: W03Z



Jim W03Z operating at VP9I during the 2018 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Larry Comden K3VX

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh dot org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'nPark**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2019	AB3ED	NØVLR	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	AB3NM	N1NCZ	K3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	AE3DL	N2QIV	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
KA3VXM	K3HCR	N3BPB	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
KB3DCO	K3JDS	N3DFK	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
KB3GMN	K3SGT	N3KFD	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
KB3GMU	K3VX	N3RDV	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3ENX
KB3JHR	K3WJL	N7TDX	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3FNM
KC4WTT	KB3BYA	NU3Q	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
N3FB	KB3CMT	NY9H	N8DPW	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
N3RDG	KB3ERQ	W3BBX		NP2JF	N3CZZ
N3SBF	KB3IAC	W3WN			N3FZ
N3ZK	KB3IVX	WA3JFL			N3HKQ
W3WH	KB3ORO	WB3CAI			N3KEH
WA3PYU	KB3SQZ	W03Z			N3OBD
WA3VSS	KB3YCX	Barbara			N3RNX
WB4GCS	KC3ELA	Udren			N3SKR
2018	KC3GMM				N3SRC
AA3GM	KC3KMY				N3ZEL
AA3XY	KE7FD				N3XFE

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through December 18th, 2018
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

2019 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

January 1 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 1 st	AMSAT CW Activity Day In Memory of Bill Tynan W3XO	https://www.amsat.org
January 1 st	Green Keys Night	https://www.rttycontesting.com
January 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
January 12 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	See Page 10
January 19 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest PSK-31	http://www.breezeshooters.org
February 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 16 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest CW	http://www.breezeshooters.org
February 16 th -17 th	ARRL International DX CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 24 th	WASHFest 2018 WASH VE Exams at WASHFest	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park 
March 2 nd -3 rd	ARRL International DX SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 16 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest Phone	http://www.breezeshooters.org
March 30 th — 31 st	CQ WPX Contest SSB	http://www.cqwpw.com
April 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 7 th	Two Rivers ARC 2019 Hamfest	The Boston Spectrum , 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston, PA
May 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park

"Seen" at the December Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Ron Notarius W3WN



VP9I: 2018 ARRL 160 CW Contest

Bill Hill W3WH

Chartiers Township, PA, December 5th, 2018 -- The latest dx trip that Larry, K3VX and I, W3WH, have taken took place in Bermuda beginning on November 29th and ended on December 3rd. We were joined by Jim WO3Z and Gary K3GW. The four of us stayed at the QTH of VP9GE, Ed Kelly. Ed made available two apartments AND a working station including a full size 160 meter dipole. We traveled there to participate in the annual 160 CW Contest sponsored by the ARRL. In this particular contest the DX world tries to work W/VE stations while the W/VE's can also work each other.

The challenges offered by the 160 meter band include the difficulty of working stations a long way away from your location, and especially the difficulty of hearing distant stations due to higher noise levels than we typically confront on the higher HF bands. We entered the contest as a Multi op, single transmitter, low power entry. Hams in Bermuda must limit their power to 150 watts or less. Since we didn't have an amp available anyway it was an easy decision to run 100 watts with Larry's Icom 7300. We found that conditions were just so so on the first night of the contest but were somewhat better on Saturday evening but both nights included a lot of QSB. I mentioned evening because 160 meters is useless for long distance contacts in the daytime. That's the only time we were on in the contest. Outside of the contest we worked several local folks including K3HCR, KB3GMN, N3SBF, W3WVN, N3TIR, NY9H and probably others I'm forgetting.

The contest started @2200Z Friday and ran for the next 42 hours until 1600Z Sunday. Of those hours we only operated 15 because daytime was useless and none of us (we are all 76 or older) could stay awake all night. We still managed 428 Q's in 62 ARRL sections. Most of the sections we missed were on the west coast but a few were closer such as Mississippi and Nebraska. We don't know how many stations were "on" but last year about 1200 logs were submitted. The band was full of signals.

Like all of our past expeditions "Murphy" accompanied us this time as well. The first thing that happened was that I forgot to bring a mouse for the logging computer. Next we discovered that we could use either computer generated CW or paddle-generated CW but not both since the IC 7300 has only one input for a paddle, and we didn't bring Larry's external keyer, which would have solved that problem. So we muddled through the contest unable to send helpful messages or questions etc. Very frustrating.

As you may have seen in my receiving antenna blurb in the last [WASHRag](#), we brought a RX pennant thinking it would be as helpful in Bermuda as it is here in PA. Well, it worked as well as the dipole we used for transmitting but no better. Nuts. It was a lot of trouble to build it, bring it and set it up and not get any real benefit from the effort.

One of the high points of the trip was our host Ed Kelly VP9GE. He was fabulous. He picked us up at the airport, took us shopping, to dinner, on two "tours" of the sights, lent us tools, helped erect the receiving antenna etc., etc. What a great guy who is full of energy and interest in life and he's 87 years young! If you have any interest in operating from a foreign location, I would highly recommend that you consider working with Ed.

I guess that one of the most important benefits of our trips is that we get to "OD" on ham radio without having to feel guilty about it and with no need to apologize to anyone for doing so. Hopefully everyone reading this will have the opportunity to operate from overseas at least once during their ham "career" It's well worth it and this trip was certainly proof of that.



Gary K3GW/VP9 working his cousin W9NLP on 17 meters. Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Gary Weslager K3GW



Above, L-R: K3VX, W3WH, WO3Z, K3GW.
Below: The View, and the rental location.
Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Gary Weslager K3GW



Above Left: The Pennant Antenna, pre-assembly
Left: Pennant Center & Transformer
Above: VP9I Host Ed Kelly VP9GE
Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Larry Comden K3VX



The Silence Of The Repeaters

Murray Green K3BEQ

Cheverly, MD, December 29th 2018 — That silence you hear on VHF/UHF is not because there are few repeaters in our area. Just the opposite; there are too many.

History: During the repeater revolution in the early 70s activity among the low number of repeaters was high. Some were being used around the clock. Activating a repeater was not easy. The FCC required detailed information about the repeater such as: height above sea level, power output, antenna type and detailed diagrams among other information. Special call signs were also issued. These requirements tended to keep repeater numbers at a reasonable level but not for long. They were soon lifted enabling any Amateur, except Novices, to activate a repeater using their own or club call signs. Repeaters expanded and the sales of HTs, mobiles, base stations and accompanying antennas exploded.

I don't recall the exact reason(s) for lifting the requirements but suspect there was pressure from equipment manufacturers and the Amateur community. Letting repeaters proliferate had to be good for business, the economy and Amateur communications at the time.

Today (2018): As repeater numbers increased user activity decreased proportionally. It seemed every club and individual Amateur wanted a repeater..... Fast forward to 2018..... Most repeaters are now sitting idle. Amateurs to a large degree have drifted away from using them. Direct causes are the Internet, data phones, digital HF and soft regulations that provided no control for over-expansion.

For example, in our local area of the Washington DC/Baltimore corridor there are well over 200 repeaters, most if not all, are very quiet. And that is not counting northern Virginia repeaters. The addition of: Echo Link, IRLP and linking had little effect on increasing activity. I believe this condition is nation wide. The bizarre part is that new repeaters continue to be activated. It's akin to having too many railroad tracks and not enough cars to use them, yet more tracks are being laid down. No way to run a railroad.

As a result the Amateur community nation wide has thousands of low usage repeaters. In some cases, IDs and computer generated announcements consume most of the air time. And no Amateur wants to invest in equipment and time to listen to silence. It is a conundrum that I am not certain can be reversed.

Some Help: Our area's Frequency Coordinators with assistance from local Amateurs do monitor repeaters that have not been heard for extended periods of time requesting comments from the owners. This is an unofficial action with no legal strength but has resulted in a number of repeaters being taken off the air voluntarily and their frequencies returned to the common pool. Ironically the frequencies are re-issued to clubs/individuals who are waiting assignment for their repeaters that will most likely sit idle most of the time.

Emergencies: The value of repeaters in an emergency cannot be denied. However, just how many emergencies occur and how many repeaters are required in a given city/town at a given time?

Epilog: I thought I might have some answers but nothing seems to fit. Stronger regulations on usage, and/or limiting the number of repeaters in a given area as well as combining clubs are some areas of consideration. Providing Frequency Coordinators with legal authority to control over- expansion is another. How realistic they are is arguable. Doing nothing is an option which may lead to more stagnation.

What started as a revolution has become an implosion.

What are your thoughts?



146.955 being moved, August 2009. Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2009. 2018 Larry Comden K3VX

How a Copper Coil Got Me Into Amateur Radio

Joakim Forøysund LB1RI

Melbu, Northern Norway, September 19th, 2018 – The interest of radio has been dormant within me for as long as I can remember, but it was not until I studied to become an electrical engineer the interest started growing. Actually, I can clearly remember what triggered this interest for real – Peterson coil grounding in high voltage distribution systems. That's right, you got that correct! A subject seemingly far away from radio was the subject leading me here. Let me explain.

The answer lies within the frequencies

I was reading about resonance in high voltage distribution nets, caused by the capacitance in the lines together with the inductance in the ground coil. I was calculating and reading, jumping from one website to the other, and I was fascinated by the subject of frequencies and resonance. After stumbling upon a few filter circuits on a radio page I was completely sold! One thing led to the other, and suddenly I sat there with the Radio Amateurs ABC (the license syllabus) on my lap – a few weeks ahead of my final exam.

Boy, was that the wrong timing to get into amateur radio! I needed to concentrate on my exam! Well, actually I got use of some of the literature for my final project at school. But I had to tame my eagerness to keep focus on what was most important at the time.

I finished school, got my degree and started reading. There was no license course in my area so I had to read for myself. For one year I kept on reading for my license. ONE YEAR! I could have done it in a couple of months, but I was too intimidated of the test to go ahead and try. Mr. Never-good-enough wanted to make sure he would pass without trouble. And so he did.

By the end of February 2018 I had obtained the license and I was ready to rock the amateur bands.

The moral

I guess what I want to say here is – Don't be afraid to try. You may be ready already. Just jump into it!

[You can find Joakim's website at <http://www.uponarctic.com>]



ARRL Petitions FCC To Incorporate Parity Act Provisions Into Part 97

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 19th, 2018 – The ARRL has filed a *Petition for Rulemaking* ([PRM](#)) asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The *Petition* has not yet been assigned a rule making (RM) number and is not yet open for public comment. In the past, the FCC has said that it would not take such action without guidance from the US Congress, but, as ARRL's *Petition* notes, the Congress "has overwhelmingly and consistently" offered bipartisan support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

"Private land use regulations which either prohibit or which do not accommodate the installation and maintenance of an effective outdoor antenna in residences of Amateur Service licensees are unquestionably the most significant and damaging impediments to Amateur Radio Service communications that exist now," ARRL said in its *Petition*. "They are already precluding opportunities for young people to become active in the avocation and to conduct technical self-training and participate in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] learning activities inherent in an active, experiential learning environment. Without the relief in this *Petition*, the future of Amateur Radio is bleak indeed." The proposed amendments would have no effect on the FCC's limited preemption policy in §97.15(b), which pertains to state and municipal governing bodies, ARRL said.

Specifically, ARRL is proposing that the FCC amend Part 97 by adding a new subsection under §97.15, that prohibits and ceases the enforcement of, "Any private land use restriction, including restrictive covenants and regulations imposed by a community association," that either fails to permit a licensee to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna capable of operation on all Amateur Radio frequency bands, on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; precludes or fails to permit Amateur Service communications, or which does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes specifically articulated in the declaration of covenants of a community association seeking to enforce such restriction. ARRL's proposed rule would not affect any existing antenna approved or installed before the effective date of a *Report and Order* resulting from ARRL's petition.

The proposed provisions reflect the accommodation reached in the ultimate version of the Parity Act bill at the urging of federal lawmakers between ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the only organization representing homeowners' associations. "That legislation was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives four separate times and has the support of the Senate Commerce Committee and the current Administration," ARRL stressed.

"Private land use regulations are not 'contracts' in the sense that there is any meeting of the minds between the buyer and seller of land," ARRL said. "Rather, they are simply restrictions on the use of owned land, imposed by the developer of a subdivision by recordation in the land records of the jurisdiction when it is first created. They bind all lots in the subdivision. If an Amateur Radio licensee wants to buy a home in a subdivision burdened by deed restrictions, that licensee has precisely two options: Buy the residence subject to the restrictions, or do not buy the residence. There is no negotiation possible because the restrictions are already in place and cannot be waived by a seller in favor of a buyer."

ARRL noted in its *Petition* that an increasing number of homes available for purchase today are already subject to restrictive covenants prohibiting outdoor antennas, and that the Community Associations Institute data show that 90% of new housing starts in the US are subject to deed restrictions and other limitation that make installation of outdoor Amateur Radio antennas ineffective or impossible.

Also, ARRL pointed out that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives the FCC jurisdiction "to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with federal policy and that private land use regulations are entitled to less deference than municipal regulations, because the former are premised solely on aesthetic considerations rather than safety issues, whereas municipal regulations are concerned with both."

"It is now time for actual and functional parity in the Commissions regulations in order to protect the strong federal interest in Amateur Radio communications," ARRL said.



Canadian National Parks on the Air Event Set To Start January 1st

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 4th, 2018 -- The Canadian National Parks on the Air event ([CNPOTA](#)) will get under way on January 1st, 2019, and continue until year's end. A volunteer group of a half-dozen hams in Nova Scotia, working with a zero budget, came up with the notion of attempting to replicate the success of the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, first created to mark the centennial of the National Park Service.



Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) has announced its support for CNPOTA, in cooperation with Parks Canada. All radio amateurs are invited to activate any of Park Canada's 48 national parks and 171 national historic sites, while "chasers" attempt to land a contact.

Activity for activators and chasers will be tracked on a dedicated website and a real-time leader board, and operators may compete for online awards and certificates. For updates on the program's progress, [visit](#) the CNPOTA website.

WSJT-X 2.0 Full Release Now Available FT8 Enthusiasts Urged to Upgrade Now

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 10th, 2018 -- The WSJT-X 2.0 software suite has been released, and developer Joe Taylor K1JT, is urging FT8 and MSK144 users to upgrade to what will become the new standard, because the FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is *not* backward compatible with older versions of the program. That includes any version 1.9 releases.

"The new protocols become the worldwide standards starting on December 10th, 2018, and all users should upgrade to WSJT-X 2.0 by January 1st, 2019," Taylor said on the [WSJT-X home page](#). "After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air."

Users are encouraged to read the new [Quick Start Guide](#) for WSJT-X. Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB, has released an [FT8 Operating Guide](#).



19th Annual WASH Two Meter Simplex Contest

This January will mark the Nineteenth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting! Everyone who participated in it the last eighteen years had a blast, & we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

Rules were been revised before the 2013 event, following feedback from participants, and we have an updated address for mailing your logs from years past — **please** make certain that you use this year's address!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 12th, 2018 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 13th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.585 MHz**. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).
- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB & AM QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels below 146.505 MHz.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, nets, & QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty.

Scoring: Each Contact:

Phone (FM, SSB, AM): 1 point
CW: 2 points
Digital (any mode): 2 points

Multipliers:

Locations:
Power:

Number of different ZIP Codes
X 3 Stations running 10 Watts or Less
X 2 Stations running 10—30 Watts
X 1 Stations running over 30 Watts

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets are now available for download from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: **** UPDATED ADDRESS FOR 2019 ****

WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Charles Bihun KC3ELA
1918 Woodward Avenue, Apartment 2
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2019

Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2019 on February 24th**

Logs submitted with an SASE will have their ticket mailed to them, otherwise, the tickets will be available at the **WASH** Club table

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

146.505 MHz	146.520 MHz (*)	146.535 MHz	146.550 MHz	146.565 MHz	146.580 MHz
147.450 MHz	147.465 MHz	147.480 MHz	147.495 MHz	147.510 MHz	147.525 MHz
147.540 MHz	147.555 MHz	147.570 MHz	147.585 MHz		

Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPA as repeater input frequencies.

(*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, may be used. However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager



Falls Creek, PA, December 25th, 2018 — **ARL SIXTY ONE**

We wish you the best holiday season ever. Here's hoping that Santa remembered to stop at the Radio Store on his way to your QTH!

Major Changes to ARES and OO Programs

The ARRL Public Service Enhancement Working Group has completed its two-year project to re-tool the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to meet the requirements of partner agencies, nationwide. The new program will consist of ARES Members who are "organized, trained, qualified and credentialed" to better serve our partner agencies.

The new program features three levels of ARES membership, which are matched by three levels of required training and certification. The training requirements will be met by members completing free, online courses including NIMS IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 and the newly revised ARRL EC-001, which will be provided free of charge to ARES members. Additional training is required for all ARES leadership appointees ("ECs").

The ARRL Board has opened a public comment period. ARRL requests your comments to be sent through your Section Emergency Coordinator <sec@wpa-arrl.org> and Section Manager <sm@wpa-arrl.org> only. The Board will review all comments and vote on the final program at the January 2019 ARRL Board Meeting.

The current OO program will end, and be replaced by a new Volunteer Monitoring program, administered by ARRL HQ, working closely with FCC.

All current OOs will be invited to apply for the new program, which will concentrate on major enforcement issues the FCC requests. The goal is to provide more rapid enforcement response to significant, developing on-the-air violations rather than more minor operating and technical issues.

Much more information about these developments is available online at www.arrl.org and in upcoming issues of QST.

2018 Recap

What a busy year we have had! Our WPA Section Convention and the first Pennsylvania State ARRL Convention in many years were well attended and widely appreciated.

Public Service Activity reports have been pouring in every month. Our WPA Section hams have been very active indeed! Nice work, everyone!

Our Section Staff officials have been busy making plans to keep serving our section better and better. ASM Juan Manfredi NAØB has embarked on a mission to rejuvenate College Radio Clubs across our section. SEC Bud Plants N3TIR and ASEC Steve Fazekas K3FAZ have been working overtime to implement the new, enhanced ARES program, develop a wider cooperation with Western PA Red Cross, and building plans to expand ARES communications capabilities, including the 60 meter band and digital messaging across the WPA Section.

Section Traffic Manager Herb Gilliland W3YNX reports that an increasing number of WPA hams are making their presence known on the Public Service Honor Roll. Section Youth Coordinator Bruce Gibson K3BEG is working with schools and scouts with plans for amateur radio activities that support educational and operating activities for young hams everywhere in our WPA Section.

All this and more is being documented in our upcoming WPA Section Yearbook!

In Conclusion

If you're looking for a program for your club meetings, why not put together some activities for new hams and those who are interested in Amateur Radio? Demo the latest entry level radios like the Icom 7300 and the Yaesu 991A (for example), have some Advisors available to answer questions, have a show and tell about DXing, digital modes, SDR, signal location... the list is endless.

Advertise it as much as you can, especially in schools, colleges, on bulletin boards at work, on your nets, and in person to the hams in your communities who recently got licensed. It doesn't have to be perfect — it just has to be done. Who knows, you might make the difference needed to gain some active new members!

Above all else, go out of your way to make new hams feel welcome and respected! We want to make good amateur radio friendships in the best 100+ year tradition of Amateur Radio!

Still looking for more ideas for meeting programs? Drop me an invite or a request for a visit by any of our section staff. We are available to travel to your group, and can discuss a variety of very interesting Amateur Radio topics.

73 & Press On!



2019 Hamvention® Awards Announcement

Once again, it gives us great pleasure to announce the opening of the 2019 Hamvention Awards nomination process. As in the past, this prestigious program will bestow awards in the following categories: Technical Achievement, Special Achievement and Amateur of the Year. Hamvention will also be recognizing the Club of the Year. The Hamvention Awards event has been held since 1955. Over these years many amateurs have been honored for their dedication and selfless contributions to our avocation and to mankind.

The Technical Achievement Award will be given to a selected amateur radio operator who has achieved technical excellence in the world of amateur radio. Examples are inventions, processes, discoveries, experiments and other technical accomplishments or any other outstanding technical achievement that contributed to amateur radio.

The Special Achievement Award will be given to a deserving amateur that made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the radio art and/or science. This award is usually given to a respected amateur who spearheaded a single significant project.

The Amateur of the Year Award is given to a ham that has made a long-term commitment to the advancement to amateur radio. This individual will have a history of ham radio contributions and has had a dedication to service, professionalism and the advancement of the avocation of amateur radio.

The Club of the Year will be honored for clearly demonstrating their involvement in varied aspects of Amateur Radio for the greater good of their community and/or their nation.

Nominations are now open for the 2019 award process. Nomination forms dedicated to the appropriate award nomination are available at <http://hamvention.org/event-details/awards>. At a minimum, each form should be completed with the information indicated. Please make sure that the nominating person is identified with a method to reach-back to them in the case of questions from the nominating committee.

Forms may be submitted via awards@hamvention.org or at Hamvention, Attn: Awards Committee, Box 964, Dayton OH 45401-0964. The nomination process will close on February 15th, 2019

— Mike Kalter W8CI & Frank J. Beafore WS8B

OFCOM Makes G5 2x3 Calls Available

Southgate ARC News Service

London, England, December 26th, 2018 -- Ofcom have recently started issuing **G5 + 3 letter** callsigns to radio amateurs

In the last century, from 1966 until 1981, G5 + 3 letter calls were issued to foreign citizens as Reciprocal licences:

- * G5AAA-G5DZZ were used for Class A's and permitted operation on HF bands
- * G5NAA-G5ZZZ were used for Class B's and permitted operation on 144 MHz and above

From 1981 reciprocal callsigns no longer had a separate Prefix, instead they were issued from the standard Class A (G4) and Class B (G6) call blocks.

In this century Ofcom has, when requested, reissued a few of the old G5+3 letter callsigns to their previous holders, but recently Ofcom have started issuing new calls from the G5 block.

One of the beneficiaries has been the G-QRP Club, which is devoted to Low Power operation. That club now have the callsign G5LOW, see <http://www.gqrp.com/callsign.htm>

It has been reported on Twitter that an Intermediate holder who passed their RSGB Advanced in December has now got a G5 callsign <https://twitter.com/M0TZR/status/1077240135027183621>

The Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba reports a 96.95% pass rate in the amateur radio exams held in Cuba on December 22nd, 2018. The exams were taken by 263 people, of whom 255 passed.

The results show 137 passed Category 3, 60 Category 2 and 58 the highest Category 1 license exam.

The FRC website provides a breakdown of exam results by branch and license class at <https://www.frcuba.cu/filiales-grupos/sistema-informativo/efectuado-examen-ministerial-a-radioaficionados.html> #

— Southgate ARC News Service

The Soyuz flight on December 27th carrying a pair of Kanopus V remote sensing satellites also deployed two German Orbital Systems **D-Star ONE** satellites: D-Star ONE - Sparrow and D-Star ONE - iSat.

Beacons have been successfully received. These satellites carry a D-STAR parrot repeater that will be available for use by amateur radio operators. The uplink is 437.325 MHz and the downlink is 435.525 MHz.

The flight also deployed the UWE-4 1U CubeSat carrying an electric propulsion experiment and a 70cm 9k6 AX.25 digipeater. The uplink and downlink frequency is 437.375 MHz. The digipeater will be active after the Launch and Early Operations Phase (LEOP)

More information on the launch and other payloads deployed can be found at <http://russianspaceweb.com/kanopus-v5-v6.html> #

— ANS, Southgate ARC News Service

The Swiss national radio society **Union Schweizerischer Kurzwellen Amateure** (USKA) will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2019.

Throughout the whole year, **HB9** stations may use the prefix **HB9Ø**, together with their suffix; and **HB3** stations likewise the prefix **HB3Ø**.

More information at <https://www.uska.ch/>

— DXNL, Southgate ARC News Service

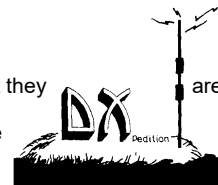
K1XM is seeking additional operators for an upcoming trip to **HQ9X**. "We're planning a multi-2 at HQ9X and currently have three operators, K1XM, KQ1F, and KC1CWF. We're looking for another.

The operation is from a house, described here: <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/4126978?guests=1&adults=1>

That website doesn't show the shack or antennas though. This is a place you can bring your spouse or family - we probably have two or three available bedrooms. DXpedition experience is not necessary. The local airport is RTB and there have been some pretty good airfares recently."

Interested parties should email Paul at k1xm@k1xm.org

DX News Briefs



The **3YØI** Rebel Team reported on 25 December that they currently in the Western Cape of South Africa, pre-assembling their gear inside the ship. Departure date has yet to be announced. It is expected that the journey to Bouvet will take 12 days, and they will be QRV for 2 weeks, both weather permitting. More information available at <https://www.rebeldxgroup.com> <https://bouvetoya.org/3yoi-bandplan> . QSK via 3Z9DX

KG4AY is currently QRV through 21 March, 80 – 10, SSB only. QSL via AC8AY

VE3AXT is currently QRV as **V31AX** through mid-May. QSL via MØURX

5K6RM will be QRV from 5 – 12 January to commemorate the Manizles Fair. More information at <http://5k6rm.blogspot.com>.

OE3GEA will be QRV as **HC8GET** from SA-004 13 – 25 January, 0 – 10 meters. QSL via OE3GEA

PJ4/WW4LL and **PJ4/NN9DD** will be QRV 4 – 10 February. During the CQ WPX RTTY Contest they will be QRV as **PJ4Z**. QSL all via K4BAI

A group of operators will be QRV as **V84SAA** 7 – 18 February. They will focus on the low bands but will have a "presence" on the WARC and higher bands. Look for them on 160 at North American sunrise. More information at <http://v84saa.ko8sca.com> QSL via LZ1JZ

The **XX9D** DXpedition Macao 2019 from AS-075 is scheduled 11 – 16 February. They will have separate antennas up for each band with 4 to 5 stations QRV. They will upload daily to ClubLog, and will be using WSJT-X 2.0 for FT8. Authorities have informed them that they will not have 60 meters available at this time. More information at <https://xx9d.mydx.de> QSL via DL4SVA

A group of operators will be QRV from the 'PJ4G Radio House' as **PJ4A** during the ARRL DX CW Contest (16 – 17 February), and as PJ4/home call before and after the contest, 11 – 20 February. QSL PJ4A, PJ4/KU8E and PJ4/K4BAI via K4BAI, others as directed. More info on the site at <http://www.pj4g.com>

6W/ON4AVT will be QRV 20 February – 30 March, 40 20 & 10, CW SSB PSK31 and PSK63. QSL via ON4AVT

DK2HM will be QRV as **E51HMK** from OC-013 14-22 March, various HF bands on SSB. QSL via DK2HM

Members of the EIDX Group will be QRV as **5V7EI** 14 – 26 March, 160 – 10, CW SSB & Digital. They plan to have up to 5 stations on the air. More information at <https://5v8ei.com> QSL via MØOXO

GØVJG will be QRV from **3D2 Fiji** 3- 5 & 20-22 May, **FW Wallis Island** 6 – 20 May. Callsigns pending. Activity will be 80 – 10, SSB & FT8. QSL via MØOXO

QSL Routes

3W1T via XV1X	HC8GET via OE3GEA	SN50CUG via SP3CUG
3YØI via 3Z9DX	HF19NY via SP5Y	SO1ØØPWJ via SP3J
5V7EI via MØOXO	HF8ØPGB via SP2TMT	SO75ØW via SP6CES
5W1SA via JA1DXA	HI3Y via RW6HS	UP4L via UN7LZ
6Y6Y via W8YCM	HI8S via EA5GL	V31AX via MØURX
9A6ØKDE via 9A1AA	KG4AY via AC8AY	V5/ZS1WO via DH3WO
9L1YXJ via KW4XJ	LZ/4X6TT via N4GNR	V84SAA via LZ1JZ
9V1YC via W5UE	LZ/EA3HSO via N4GNR	VK2SR via VK1TX
C5SP via SP3PS	OHØZZ via WØMM	VP5P via N2OO
DJ5I via DJ5FI	OK8DCC via DL3DCC	VP5/AF3K via N2OO
DP1POL/P via DL1ZBO	OQ5M via ON5ZO	VP5/W2TT via N2OO
EG1PPE via EA1AUM	PJ4/KU8E via K4BAI	XX9D via DL4SVA
EM1111U via US7UU	PJ4/NN9DD via K4BAI	YP2Ø19HNY via YO3KPA
EM3ØN via UR4NWW	PJ4/WW4LL via K4BAI	YT1ØØSF via YU1SRS
EO7ØUWC via UT4UWC	PJ4A via K4BAI	ZY2FM via PY2ZA
	PJ4Z via K4BAI	ZZ5P via PY2GTA
	R115RAEM via R4AS	

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com> !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



"If an antenna falls in the forest, and no one is there to see or hear it, does it's SWR change?"

Clinton Herbert AB7RG

The IARU, which sponsors the **Worked All Continents** award, has made clear that it **does not** sponsor a 5 MHz (60 metres) endorsement.

"All IARU member-societies please note: the IARU Worked All Continents award is not available with an endorsement for 5 MHz," an IARU announcement from IARU Secretary David Sumner K1ZZ, said.

"The only band endorsements currently available are for 160, 80, 6 and 2 metres as well as 70 and 23 cm."

The question arose after an individual displaying a purported IARU WAC 5 MHz Award certificate on QRZ.com said other IARU member-societies have been issuing WAC certificates bearing a 5 MHz endorsement under IARU auspices.

Ordinarily, an ARRL member would apply for the award through the League, but this individual's membership had lapsed; he apparently looked elsewhere. ARRL told the individual that the award, displayed over Dave Sumner's signature, "does not match the awards we issue from ARRL, nor can we find any application that was submitted for such an award."

ARRL issues no specific awards for 60 metres.

Dave Sumner did say that WAC endorsements for 135.7 kHz and 472 kHz would be available shortly, however.

— OPDX, Southgate ARC News Service



If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and the automation should take care of the rest!



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 7th, 2018 -- FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has announced that Jane Hinckley Halprin will serve as the agency's Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). She succeeds Judge Richard Sippel, who retired on December 1st.

"Jane has done tremendous work at the FCC, and I congratulate her on this new role," Pai said. "The good judgment she displayed working on ethics issues at the agency for over a decade will serve her well as our Administrative Law Judge." Pai also thanked Sippel for his 32 years of service as an ALJ, during which he dealt with several Amateur Radio cases.

Halprin joined the FCC in 1987 as a staff attorney in the former Common Carrier Bureau and has occupied positions in the former Mass Media Bureau, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Office of General Counsel. For the past 14 years, she has served in the Office of General Counsel as an Ethics Counsel and for the past year has led the agency's ethics team as Assistant General Counsel for Ethics.

The FCC Office of Administrative Law Judges is responsible for conducting Commission-ordered hearings. An ALJ acts on interlocutory requests filed in the proceedings, such as contested discovery requests. ALJs are appointed by a vote of all Commissioners.

US Amateurs by Class as of December 31st, 2018:

Novice	9,999
Technician	412,719
General	188,317
Advanced	44,691
Extra	152,974
Club	12,670
Total	822,379

All-Time High 12/21/2018 822,500

Information courtesy of Hamdata.com

IOT of P4A Transponders

London, England, December 30th, 2018 — AMSAT-DL notes that the In-Orbit testing (IOT) of the P4-A ham radio transponders on Es'hail-2 have started.

In a statement regarding the status of the transponders for amateur radio use AMSAT-DL said, "However: Please be reminded, that under no circumstances uplink attempts should be done! Like everyone, we are very excited by the received signals so far and we do appreciate any monitoring and receiving reports from the amateur radio community."

We are happy to see how much interest and enthusiasm this satellite already created in our community... Any unsolicited transmissions will delay the commissioning and maybe even worse, might influence our good relation with Es'hailSat during this project."

When a new satellite is launched, a number of tests are performed to verify that the stress loads imposed by the launch have not affected the on-board systems. An RF in-orbit test (IOT) is conducted to verify the performance of communication payloads. These operations are typically performed by the manufacturer of the satellite, in this case by MELCO engineers. These operations also include both AMSAT P4-A transponders on-board Es'hail-2.

Such acceptance tests are part of the commercial contract and usually consists of Power, Frequency and other measurements like: Gain transfer, EIRP, In-Band and Out-Band response, receive & transmit antenna cross-polarization isolation, antenna gain, Gain-to-temperature ratio (G/T), Gain adjustments, TWT settings, Spacecraft spurious signal search, intermodulation, LO and beacon frequency stability and much more...

When all IOT tests are successful performed, the satellite will be moved to it's final position at 26°E and handed-over to it's owner Es'hailSat.

Please understand that AMSAT-DL is not authorized to give any details of the above operations in advance.

— AMSAT-DL, ANS, Southgate ARC News Service

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



WASHfest 2019

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY FOURTH** big year!
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 24th, 2019
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA*

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!



First Prize: ICOM-7300 100 W HF+6M Transceiver
Second Prize: Comet Antennas CAA-500 Mark II Antenna Analyzer
Third Prize: Buddipole Whip

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2019. Reservations received after February 1st, 2019 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance nine years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

5 Or More Tables w/o: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2017
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter
(check one)) →

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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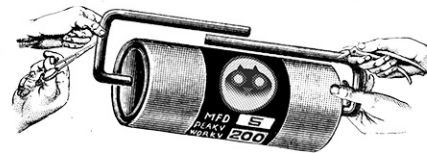
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



HANDMADE BY GNOMES.

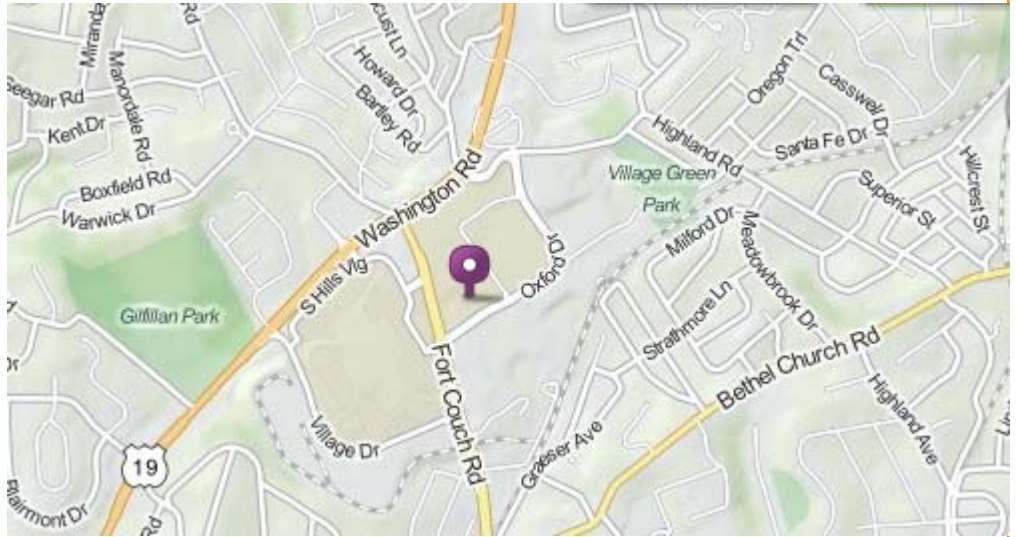
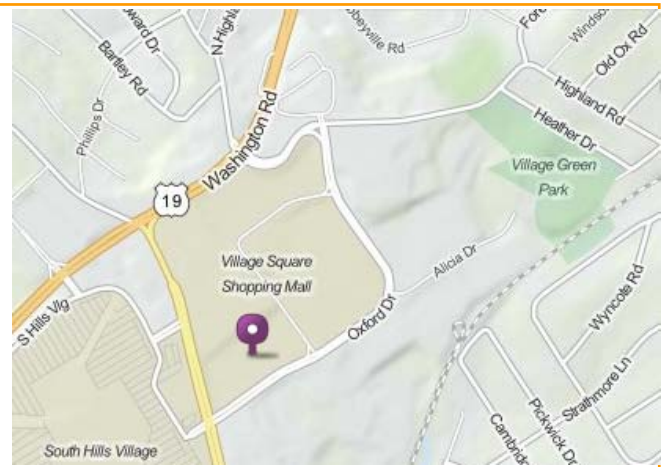


2019 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org

